Deerfield Bridge
Spanning the Judith River
Danvers Vicinity
Fergus County
Montana

HAER No. MT-17

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Deerfield Bridge

MT-17

Location: Spanning the Judith River, 1-1/2 miles northeast of Danvers, Fergus County, Montana.

Date of Construction: 1913

Present Owner: Fergus County
Fergus County Courthouse
Lewistown, Montana 59457

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: At the turn of the Twentieth Century, the Judith Basin in Fergus County was rapidly becoming one of the most bountiful wheat producing areas in the State of Montana. During the decades that followed, there was a great expansion of rail service to the County and a flurry of bridge building activity for purposes of transporting agricultural produce to markets. Among the larger bridges built during this period was the Deerfield Bridge across the Judith River. It was built near the former community of Deerfield. A nearby Hutterite colony still uses the name Deerfield Colony. The 110 foot, riveted, single-span Pratt through truss bridge was built in 1913 by the Security Bridge Co. of Billings and Minneapolis for a contract amounting to $9125. The superstructure of the bridge is as follows: lower chord is two angle sections with batten plates; verticals are two laced channel sections except the hip verticals which are four angle sections; diagonals are two laced angle sections; upper chord is a continuous steel plate riveted atop two channel sections with lacing bars riveted to their lower flanges. Portal bracing is of angle sections; sway bracing is struts of four laced angle sections; and top and bottom lateral bracing is angle sections riveted to the top flange of the upper chord and the lower flange of the floor beams, respectively. Steel I-beam stringers sit on the top flange of steel I-beam floor beams which are riveted to the superstructure. The deck is concrete and the span rests on concrete abutments.

Transmitted by: Kevin Murphy, Historian HAER, 1984; from data compiled by Fredric L. Quivik, 1979